

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 061515Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9042

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, YO

SUBJ: CARAMANLIS-TITO CONTACT HAILED IN ATHENS

REF: ATHENS 4090

1. SUMMARY. CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA JUNE 4-5 AND THE PROSPECTS OF BROADER BALKAN COOPERATION UNDER GREEK INITIATIVE WERE HAILED IN THE JUNE 5-6 GREEK PRESS. THE LONG OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE AS RELEASED IN ATHENS EMPHASIZED A CLOSENESS OF GENERAL VIEWS BETWEEN TITO AND CARAMANLIS ON MANY MATTERS INCLUDING CYPRUS. EFFECTIVE BACKGROUNDEERS BY GOG OFFICIALS WERE FLOURISHED IN MEDIA WITH THE RESULT THAT THE TRIP STOOD OUT TO GREEK PUBLIC AS GOOD DEMONSTRATION OF CARAMANLIS' PERSONAL DIPLOMACY. THE YUGOSLAV TRIP DEVELOPED AN AURA OF ACHIEVEMENT WHICH A READING OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS MAY NOT BEAR OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ARRIVED BACK IN ATHENS EVENING OF JUNE 5 TO A BIG AIRPORT RECEPTION, UPBEAT AFTERNOON NEWS HEADLINES, AND EVENING TV COVERAGE OF HIS MEETING WITH TITO IN WHICH BOTH LEADERS APPEARED EXCEPTIONALLY ROBUST, ACTIVE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CORDIAL. THE ATHENS PRESS INTERPRETED THE YUGOSLAV TRIP AS AN

EFFECTIVE STEP TOWARD CARAMANLIS' GOAL TO BUILD BALKAN COOPERATION WHICH WILL SECURE GREECE'S NORTHERN EXPOSURE, ISOLATE TURKEY DIPLOMATICALLY, AND GIVE MORE WEIGHT TO GREECE'S STAND VIS-A-VIS CYPRUS.

3. THE UPBEAT TENOR WAS REINFORCED BY CARAMANLIS' OWN CRITIQUE TO THE NEWSMEN ON THE RETURN FLIGHT: "WE COVERED MORE GROUND THAN EXPECTED" AND BY USE OF A BACKGROUNDER FROM "AN AUTHORITATIVE GREEK SOURCE" WHO DESCRIBED THE FULL SUCCESS OF THE BILATERAL MEETINGS AS EVIDENCE THAT "THE CARAMANLIS LINE" I.E. INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS COUPLED WITH LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, WAS BEING FOLLOWED. THIS COMMENT WENT CONSIDERABLY BEYOND TEXT OF OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE IN PREDICTING THAT ONCE BALKAN MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IS SET IN MOTION, ALBANIA WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN AND PERHAPS EVEN TURKEY; SOURCE ASSERTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN AT TURKEY'S PROVOCATIVE TACTICS ON THE GROUND THAT THEY THREATEN PEACE IN THE BALKANS; AND THAT YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAD EXPRESSLY ASSURED THE GREEKS THAT THEY WOULD MAKE ALL EFFORTS TO PERSUADE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AS AT THE LIMA CONFERENCE LATER IN JUNE, TO EXERT PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO REDUCE HER INTRANSIGENCE.

4. THE TEXT OF OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS LESS POINTED THAN ABOVE GREEK INTERPRETATION. BALKAN COOPERATION WAS ENDORSED BUT WITH NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS ENUMERATED AND ALBANIA WAS NOT MENTIONED. YUGOSLAV PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR AN INDEPENDENT CYPRIOT REPUBLIC BUT TURKEY IS NOT MENTIONED; A CONSULAR CONVENTION AND A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON EDUCATION TO RUN THROUGH 1970 WERE SIGNED ALONG WITH AN AGREEMENT ON TRANSIT OF YUGOSLAV GOODS THROUGH THE FREE ZONE OF THESSALONIKI PORT, THE LATTER AWAITS RATIFICATION, PRESUMABLY BY THE RESPECTIVE PARLIAMENTS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE BRIEFEST OF CARAMANLIS' RECENT DIPLOMATIC FORAYS, THE YUGOSLAVIA VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE MADE AS POSITIVE PUBLIC IMPACT AS THE EARLIER TRIPS TO PARIS, BONN AND BUCHAREST, PERHAPS MORE SO. YUGOSLAVIA IS OF MORE IMMEDIATE STRATEGIC INTEREST TO GREECE THAN THE OTHER COUNTRIES RECENTLY VISITED AND MARSHAL TITO EXERCISES A TRADITIONAL FASCINATION FOR THE GREEK PUBLIC AS A FORCEFUL NEIGHBORING LEADER.

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CARAMANLIS MILKED THE TRIP FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT, MOREOVER, AND THERE WAS BETTER USE AND PLACEMENT OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT AND THROUGHOUT THE YUGOSLAV TRIP THAN IN EARLIER DIPLOMATIC VENTURES.

6. TO HELP KEEP BALKAN DETENTE MOMENTUM FRONT AND CENTER, THE GOG ANNOUNCED ALSO JUNE 5 THAT THE PENDING CARAMANLIS TRIP TO SOFIA IS FIXED FOR JULY 2-4.

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